

## FIRE IN JERSEY PRISON

Wild Excitement at Blaze in Rahway Reformatory

### GUARDS QUELL THE STAMPEDE

Unconscious Prisoners Carried Out While Others Are Placed Under Heavily Armed Guards in Courtyard—Confagration Started in Paint Shop—City Fire Department Called.

Rahway, N. J.—The wildest excitement attended a fire in the New Jersey State Reformatory here early in the morning, when thirty prisoners, locked in their cells, were overcome by smoke and had to be carried to the outer air, while the rest of the inmates, on the verge of a stampede, were marched out of danger between heavily armed guards.

The fire started in a well-filled paint shop, and was well under way when it was discovered by a guard.

He sent in an alarm, promptly arousing the Warden and the entire force of guards. While they were making ready to fight the blaze with the prison apparatus, dense and sickening smoke spread throughout the reformatory, penetrating to the cells on every tier. The institution was overcrowded. The noise aroused the prisoners. When through the smoke they became aware of what had happened they were seized with fear and began hammering at their cell doors.

"Do you want to roast us, like rats?" some of them yelled. Some were praying, some were singing hymns, others were shouting for a priest, while others again were cursing, and shouted that they would break down the doors that held them imprisoned.

When it was found that the fire was spreading, despite the efforts of the guards, the cell doors were at last unlocked, and the prisoners marched out into the Reformatory yard under a heavy guard of keepers, armed with rifles. It was then found that thirty of the inmates had been overcome by the smoke that had poured through the corridors. In their unconscious condition they were carried from the building by their keepers. They were resuscitated by Prison Physician Hough and outside practitioners who had arrived in response to hurry calls.

It is said that the fire apparatus in the prison was defective, and that the hose was rotten and burst. Whether this is true or not, it is certain that it was only the prompt arrival of the town fire department that saved the prison from destruction.

The origin of the fire was a mystery, although there seemed to be a disposition to attribute it to spontaneous combustion. The damage was \$10,000. Besides this, the Reformatory records, kept in the annex building, were rendered worthless by being soaked with water. The fire hardly got beyond the paint shop.

### AUTO MILE IN 37 SECONDS

Bowden, of Boston, Clips Two Seconds Off Vanderbilt's World's Record.

Daytona, Fla.—H. L. Bowden, of Boston, in an unofficial trial against time, speeded his ninety-horse power automobile a mile over the Daytona Beach in thirty-seven seconds flat, clipping a full two seconds off the world's record made by William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., over the same course just a year ago.

Mr. Bowden drove his car, and after the trial said he expected to make a further reduction in the figures. The beach was in splendid condition, and a strong wind was blowing with the car.

### CREW OF ELEVEN SAVED

Schooner Cordelia E. Hayes Is Wrecked Off Cape Hatteras.

Norfolk, Va.—Captain Brown and his crew of ten men, of the four-masted schooner Cordelia E. Hayes, were rescued by life savers of Cape Hatteras.

The Hayes was seen ashore on Diamond Shoals, four miles southeast of Hatteras, at half past 5 o'clock in the morning, and crews from Creeds Hill and Cape Hatteras started out in a rough sea to the rescue. They had great difficulty in approaching the vessel, owing to the high sea and thick weather.

### INSANE PRINCE DEAD

Question of Succession in Lippe-Deilmold is in Dispute.

Berlin, Germany.—Karl Alexander, the reigning Prince of Lippe-Deilmold, who was insane, died at Bayreuth. His death renders more acute the squabble which arose over the regency, in which Emperor William intervened last October, with the difference that now the fight will be over the succession.

President of Long Island Railroad. William F. Potter was elected President of the Long Island Railroad Company.

### Corner the Coke Market

By the purchase of the Grossland plant of the Atlas Coke Company of Pittsburgh, Pa., the H. C. Frick Coke Company is believed to have secured a complete corner in the coke market. It has been manifest for some time that the underlying concern of the steel trust was trying to effect a corner in the market. As a result of the Frick interests obtaining a dominating grip on the coke business, prices have soared skyward.

### England to Speak First

The code of procedure of the North Sea Commission provided that the British side of the Dogger Bank case shall be heard first; that all testimony shall be taken in public, while deliberations are held in secret.

### Revolt in Russia

Six thousand workmen in the Russian oil region about Baku were in open revolt. In three days forty Cossacks were killed, 100 wounded and millions in property looted and burned.

## ENTIRE FAMILY WIPED OUT

W. T. Mason, His Wife, Two Children and Servant Suffocated.

Son of Prominent New Yorker Visited by Early Morning Conflagration—No Ladder to Their Roof Prevented Escape.

New York City.—Unable to escape from their rich home, No. 133 West 130th street, because they had neglected to comply with fire regulations that call for a ladder leading from the top floor of their house to the roof, the family of William T. Mason, a lawyer and one of the best known men in Harlem, was wiped out of existence early in the morning by a blaze which broke out in the basement of the building. Had such a ladder been in position, the firemen said, the family could have escaped without much difficulty.

Mason, who was a son of former Police Commissioner Joel W. Mason, lived with his family in a handsome four-story brownstone building. Five persons, all asleep when the fire started, were awakened by smoke that poured in dense volumes through the house. The father tried to gather his family and lead them to safety, but his efforts were too late. The position of the bodies when discovered after the flames had been put out told the story of the futile attempt.

The Mason family consisted of the father, the mother, who formerly was Miss Claire Higgins; Ellen, four years old, and Marion, six months old. One servant, too, lost her life. Another, a colored maid, escaped through being out for the evening. She returned while the firemen were putting out the blaze, and surprised the police, who had reported her dead, by appearing in the West 125th street station.

Frank C. Waldron, of No. 100 West 130th street, was on his way home that morning when he heard cries coming from the Mason house. At the same time he saw smoke issuing from the basement window and he ran to turn in an alarm. On his way to the fire box he met Patrolman Mangan, of the West 125th street station, and after ringing for the engines they returned to the house. They could hear a man shouting for help, and they tried to enter the house by way of the basement. The policeman smashed the windows with his nightstick, but a mass of flame and smoke prevented him from entering. Next the upstairs door was tried. The policeman tried to break down the thick oaken panels, but they resisted his assaults, and he could not get in. He then climbed to the window ledge and broke the panes of glass on the parlor floor. But again he was prevented from entering by the dense clouds of smoke.

When the fire apparatus arrived the firemen tried to enter the house to rescue the inmates, but such headway had the flames made that it was impossible to venture within. Ladders were raised to the adjoining houses, and the firemen tried to get into the blazing building by way of the roof. They lifted the scuttle, but again they were driven back by the flames. After half an hour of hard work the flames were subdued sufficiently to permit the firemen to enter the building, and they then found the bodies of the victims. They found also that the fire, which had started in the basement, had made its way upward with remarkable swiftness, destroying the stairs, but not entering the rooms on the two upper floors.

On entering one of the rear rooms on the third floor the firemen found the bodies of Mason and his youngest child. The father was apparently about to lift his child from the cradle when a gust of smoke overcame him and he fell to the floor and was suffocated. Headed by Battalion Chief Short the firemen made their way to the little room where the ladder to the roof scuttle was supposed to be. They found the door of the room open, but the ladder was not there. Under the debris of the room the firemen found the body of little Ellen. Just outside the room were the bodies of Mrs. Mason and Nellie Doyle, the servant. It was apparent that the victims had tried to escape by way of the roof, but the ladder not being where the fire regulations require it to be, they were unable to get out. Escape by way of the stairs had been cut off by the flames, and before the family could decide what to do they were overcome by the smoke.

### Sues For \$400,000

In the State District Court, at Houston, Texas, John H. Kirby, of Houston, entered a suit against Patrick Calhoun, of Atlanta, Ga., doing business in New York City, for stock in the Houston Oil Company of the value of \$4,189,300. Kirby alleges that this stock belongs to him and that Calhoun is illegally withholding it. Garnishments against the receivers of the Houston Oil Company and the Kirby Lumber Company have been served to recover property held by them and sums owing to them by Calhoun. A bond of \$425,000 was given to cover the garnishments. The suit involves the operations which terminated in receiverships for the two corporations.

### Congo Natives Rise

Advices received in Vienna from missionaries declared that all the whites on the upper reaches of the Congo had been murdered in a rising of natives.

### Three Killed in Riot

Three men are dead and thirty badly wounded from a fight at Cartier, Ont., between gangs of Italian and Finnish laborers working on a railway.

### General Passenger Agent Killed

While making an inspection tour on the Mobile, Jackson and Kansas City Railroad General Passenger Agent L. B. Sullivan was instantly killed near Beaumont, Miss., by the train being derailed at a washout.

### Deadlock in Delaware

Democrats and Addicks men joined forces and succeeded in blocking the possibility of an attempt to get a vote for United States Senator and end the Delaware legislative deadlock.

## News of the Week

### WASHINGTON

President Roosevelt sent a message to Congress recommending that the Panama Canal Commission be reduced from seven to five or preferably three members.

The Legislative Appropriation bill was taken up by the Senate, and the bill of the Merchant Marine Commission was reported.

The Omnibus Claims bill was passed by the Senate.

The resolution providing for holding the inaugural ball in the Pension Building was adopted by the House.

It was learned that the Hay-Bond treaty with Newfoundland was likely to be revived.

### OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS

News from Manila told of an attempt of about 500 convicts at Bilibid prison to break jail. It resulted in the killing of sixteen of the prisoners and the wounding of forty others.

Lieutenant P. J. Jewell and a private of the Fourteenth United States Cavalry, were killed, and three officers and three privates wounded in the capture of an outlaw fortress in Jolo.

### DOMESTIC

In a fire which partially destroyed the Hotel Waltham, at Waltham, Mass., Mrs. J. Lovell was burned to death.

The Atlantic Coast Line Florida Special was wrecked at Hardenville, S. C., and a flagman was fatally hurt.

In a letter to Fire Commissioner Hayes Chief Croker, of New York City, asked that fireworks other than firecrackers be prohibited next Fourth of July.

The Chicago (Ill.) Press Club celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

Albert Flake and Robert E. Dowling, of New York City, organized a \$3,000,000 real estate company.

Relatives of former President Zachary Taylor inspected his grave at St. Matthews, Ky., with a view to making its condition more presentable.

Riots were made on fifty sweatshops in Elizabeth street, New York City.

Rodman Wanamaker carries \$3,200,000 life insurance, it was reported, a larger amount than any other man in America.

Charles F. Murphy announced that Mayor McClellan of New York City, will be re-nominated on a platform promising a "liberal" enforcement of laws.

Ten inches of snow fell in Memphis, Tenn., seriously impeding traffic.

James F. Toppan, the Standard Oil man, died in Chicago, Ill.

Through the aid of a ten-year-old boy Jersey City police hoped to break up the alleged "Black Hand" gang.

Captain David B. Mulliken took the stand in his own defense at the court-martial at Fort Sheridan and told of his marriage tangles.

An endowment fund for Tuskegee Institute was planned as a memorial for W. H. Baldwin.

Admiral Dewey and Mr. Morton, Secretary of the Navy, reviewed the semblance of warships at Hampton Roads, which was the greatest ever known in the history of the United States.

### FOREIGN

A copy of Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus," published in 1594, has just been discovered in Sweden.

Advices from Costa Rica were that Lord Fitzwilliam's treasure hunting expedition to Cocos Island met another expedition there under Mr. Harrod Gray, and a fight ensued for possession, in which the Gray forces were victorious.

Ambassador Choate spoke at the unveiling of the statue of Lord Russell, of Killowen, at London.

The date for the convening of Parliament has been set for February 14, and a short session is expected.

Mr. Balfour warned the people of Great Britain that development of the empire in all quarters of the globe is the great problem of the day for the nation.

Mr. Balfour, at a dinner in his honor, declared that the duty of all Britons was to work for a stronger union with the colonies.

At the request of the Grand Chancellor President Loubet has erased from the roll of the Legion of Honor the name of M. Begincourt, one of M. Combes' informers.

It was reported in Tangier that an army recently mobilized by the Sultan of Morocco had deserted, and that he now had less than a regiment under arms.

A new Danish Ministry was formed, containing a number of the members of the former Cabinet.

More coal miners have gone on strike in the Ruhr region. It was estimated that ninety-one collieries were involved and that the men on strike numbered 110,000. Troops were sent to reinforce the local gendarmerie in the disturbed districts.

Mme. Loubet, mother of the President of the French Republic, died at Marseilles, aged ninety-two.

General Trepoff, Moscow's deposed police chief, was shot at three times while saying adieu at a railway station to Grand Duke Sergius, also deposed, who went to St. Petersburg.

The sessions of the board of inquiry into the North Sea incident were resumed in Paris, France.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin sent a petition to President Roosevelt urging a reciprocity treaty with Germany.

M. Combes and his French Ministry decided to resign, in order to allow the uniting under a new Cabinet of those elements which are hostile to the Premier personally. It was expected that M. Rouvier will form the new Cabinet.

Representative Panamans asked Minister Barrett to withdraw his recommendation that the functions of Governor of the canal zone and Minister to Panama be combined.

## POVERTY IN NEW YORK CITY

Misery in the Metropolis Greater Than Ever Before.

Philanthropist Writes Commissioner-General Sargent, of the National Bureau of Charities, About Conditions.

New York City.—Surprising statements concerning increasing poverty in New York City were made in a letter from a New York City philanthropist of national fame to Commissioner-General Sargent, of the Bureau of Immigration at Washington, D. C.

This letter, the name of whose author is withheld by Mr. Sargent, declares that 100,000 men are without work in Greater New York City, that the hospitals are overcrowded, and that 50,000 school children, because of the empty purses of their parents, have to trudge to school without breakfast every morning.

"Fifty thousand children go to school breakfastless, which means idle fathers," writes the philanthropist. So overwhelmed is the Department of Charities with tens of thousands of applications from men out of work that it finds itself unable to cope with the situation. In short, the metropolis this winter is facing a problem with regard to the unemployed such as never has been known in past years.

"The cause of this state of affairs is of less moment now than the immediate problem of how to deal with the multitudes of the unemployed. Nor has the question here to do with the ultimate relief, such as Congress can provide by restricting immigration and scattering immigrants."

"The immediate question, then, is: What can be done with the great army of the unemployed at once? This question eliminates the unwilling and the unable, whom we always have with us, giving only the able and willing—the honest idle—mostly unskilled labor, of course. How are we to give relief to these?"

Mr. Sargent announced that this letter has strengthened his belief that immigration not only should be scattered, but restricted. New York City, he believes, suffers more from immigration, proportionately, than any five cities in the country.

"My principal suggestion in my reply to this letter," said Mr. Sargent, "is that applications coming to this bureau daily for work be published in New York City in some manner, and the influx relieved in that congested and evidently poverty-stricken city. There is a great deal of work to be had in the South if we can draw the labor here from New York City and other embarrassed cities."

J. McKee Borden, secretary of Public Charities, said:

"Since I have held this position I can safely say that I have never seen such widespread destitution calling for immediate relief. It has been made more pathetic by the fact that new elements have entered into it—men willing, able, anxious to work and support their families are unable to get work, perhaps because of industrial conditions."

"When the snow storm visited us we managed to engage the interest not only of the city, but of the traction companies and thousands of men were put to work shoveling snow. I do not think there ever were so many deserving applicants. I believe that 50,000 school children are under-fed. Many who should be filling their minds with knowledge, too, are helping to fill the family larder."

### COCKRELL ACCEPTS OFFICE

Will Succeed Yeomans on Interstate Commerce Commission.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Cockrell, of Missouri, has decided to accept the position on the Interstate Commerce Commission offered him some time ago by President Roosevelt. He will succeed Commissioner James D. Yeomans, of Iowa, whose term expired.

Senator Cockrell has indicated his decision to the President, but he expects before assuming his new duties to complete the term for which he was elected to the Senate, which ends March 4.

### TRIBUTE TO CHOATE

English Comment on His Tact and Dignity as Ambassador.

London, Eng.—The Times printed an editorial apropos of President Roosevelt's acceptance of the resignation of Ambassador Choate.

It pays a tribute to the tact and dignity with which Mr. Choate has filled his office, which, with "his sympathetic interest in all that is best in English life, have earned for him a widespread popularity which will hardly fall to the lot of any other foreign representative than the American."

### HONORS NOGI AND STOESEL

Kaiser Confers the Order of Merit on Both Generals.

Berlin, Germany.—The German Emperor has conferred the order "Pour le Merite" upon General Nogi, who commanded the Japanese at Port Arthur, and General Stoessel, who led the defenders of the fortress.

### Currency Bill Amended

The House of Representatives has amended the Hill currency bill so as to provide that National banks shall pay interest on Government deposits, which shall be awarded to the highest bidder.

### The Year's Records

The 1904 crop of rice promises a yield of 900,000,000 pounds—300,000,000 more than ever before. Horses and mules reach the highest point this year, with an aggregate value exceeding \$1,354,000,000. On the other hand, cattle, sheep, and hogs all show a slight decline.

### Herring Fishing Fails

Winter herring fishing on the Grand Banks has proven almost a total failure.

## SOUTHERN FARM NOTES

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

### The Cowpea For Green Manure.

Soils that have been subjected to long cultivation and to which liberal applications of farmyard manure have not been made become run together sooner or later. The friability of virgin soils is due to the large amount of vegetable matter they contain. It is like yeast to the dough which it leavens. Vegetable matter gives life to the soil, makes it friable and keeps it open and easy to cultivate. It is dissipated rapidly by cultivation, and in fact it has been shown conclusively that the loss of vegetable matter is much greater from erosion than from the draft which crops make on the soil. Especially is vegetable matter of importance in the South where the soils are of a clayey nature and hence tend to become compacted sooner than those of a loamy or sandy origin. This, coupled with a tendency to soil washing and to the rapid dissipation of the nitrogenous compounds in the soil through the action of the sun, tends to exhaust our soils of vegetable matter. For these reasons it becomes a matter of importance to keep the land well supplied with this essential element of plant food, and besides, it is a very important matter to keep the ground in good mechanical condition as it has a direct bearing on the production of large and uniform crops. Any means that will enable these desirable ends to be obtained without too great an expense to the farmer will be of the greatest benefit to him.

The desired end may be obtained in one of several ways. First, through the use of farmyard manure. Unfortunately, large supplies of this efficient fertilizer can only be available on stock farms. While our stock industry is very considerable, only a comparatively small number of farmers are interested in it. Hence some other means for the reclaiming of the worn-out soils must be found. Of all the crops available for this purpose there is nothing superior to the cowpea. This is due to the many peculiar attributes of this plant whose power of enriching the soil through its ability to utilize atmospheric nitrogen is now generally recognized. Thus, in the first place, it enables the farmer to supply his crops with the most expensive element of plant food at a comparatively small cost. By preparing the land early in the spring and seeding as soon as danger of frost is past, a crop of hay may be obtained which, as a food-stuff for horses and cattle, is unsurpassed. In a favorable season a second crop will be produced heavily laden with fruit from which the peas may be gathered in considerable quantities—from eight to fifteen bushels per acre. Then the refuse may be turned under to enrich the soil for a succeeding crop. Wheat, barley, oats and rye all do remarkably well after peas plowed under. In fact, in one instance that has come to the writer's attention plowing under a crop of cowpeas increased the yield of barley more than twenty bushels per acre as compared with sowing barley on corn stubble. It is not uncommon when wheat is sown after cowpeas plowed down to obtain an increase of from eight to ten bushels per acre. These figures show the remarkable value of this crop for soil renovating purposes, and should go a long way toward disposing of the altogether too common belief that it will not pay to plow down cowpeas. No one would advocate the plowing under of cowpeas on rich soils, but on land that is continuously cropped or on land that is deficient in vegetable matter, or on land that is lifeless, run together and compacted through constant cultivation, it will undoubtedly pay to plow under cowpeas which will more quickly restore it to a normal condition than any other crop that can be utilized.

The writer receives many, many letters asking this question: "What shall I do with my land; it seems to be deficient in some element of plant food; I am only receiving eight bushels of wheat and five to six bushels of corn per acre?" This land will be benefited wonderfully by vegetable matter. It will pay to plow under peas unquestionably and along with the peas liberal applications of phosphates and potash should be made. Do not hesitate to use the cowpeas for green manure. Use it judiciously. By plowing under a crop every second or third year and following a systematic rotation, you will be greatly surprised at the increased yields obtained and the general improvement shown by your soil. The land cannot grow profitable crops unless you return something to it. "You cannot take something from nothing unless you return something to it." Soil robbing and a failure to supply the soil with the essential elements of plant food in sufficient quantity and variety is the greatest curse of the South to-day.—Prof. Soule.

### Raising Beef Profitably in the South.

The beef trust and the price of meat

When one passes over the State and sees thousands of acres of lowlands producing nothing, and tens of thousands of acres of hillsides washed and cut into gullies, he is impressed with the thought that all these lands should be utilized. How can it be done so as to render them profitable? Commercial fertilizers and cotton will never do it. Crying aloud for immigrants will not make the barren places fruitful and restore fertility to the hills and impoverished uplands.

Mr. W. R. Walker, of Union, S. C., is solving the problem in a manner that is going to be most satisfactory. His farm is in lower Cherokee County, and lies on Pacolet and Broad Rivers, a short distance above their junction. It is about twenty miles from a market and the roads none of the best. As agent of one of the large publishing houses, he has had the opportunity of studying conditions in several States. He came to the conclusion that the raising of beef cattle would be the most profitable business he could engage in. He has land enough to produce one hundred head of beef cattle each year, and a large acreage left over for cotton. As the land is improved, he may double the annual output of cattle.

Mr. Walker started out with Short-horns, which he considers the very best breed to cross with the common or scrub cows of the country, but they are too heavy and wanting in agility. They cannot get about over hilly and rough land and get a good living from short or scanty grass. They make poor foragers. He then bought a herd of Angus cattle from Texas, about ninety-seven per cent pure blood, and some thoroughbred cows and bulls. They went through the summer without any loss. He will bring all his herd up to the Angus type. They are smaller than the Shorthorn, more active and can bear rougher treatment and scanty pasturage.

But cattle have to be fed all the time. They should never be allowed to get in poor condition. Mr. Walker meets this requirement with peavine hay, sorghum and corn stover. It requires hundreds of tons. Cottonseed meal and hulls will be fed to those that are prepared for market. As summer pasturage, he has Johnson grass on the river and yellow clover on the hills. He is putting out many acres in Bermuda grass. He also plants land near his pasture fence in sorghum cane so that when grass is short the sorghum may be thrown over to the cattle. He plants it thick in the drill and does not thin it.

Winter pasturage is a serious problem, but he will try oats, rye, wheat and vetch mixed. He will also sow crimson clover. This pasturage is intended for cows with young calves, sick cows and calves. Greatest care has been used to prevent the cow tick from getting a start. By change of pastures, ticks may be perished out. Dr. Tait Butler, of North Carolina, thinks that ticks will die in six months if they have nothing to feed on. Mr. Walker thinks it best to keep all cattle out of an infested pasture for one year, and then burn the dry grass in the winter.

### Green Beans as Second Crop.

Late snap beans often come very handy and prove profitable. We can often grow a good crop on the old strawberry bed, plowing the patch up soon after the picking season, and cultivating it thoroughly until the top is all smooth and the berry plants are all torn out or buried. Then plant in same manner as the first crop was planted, namely, in rows two or three feet apart, and having plants stand three or four inches apart in the rows. The beans grow quickly, and will often find good sale at this time. But by keeping the pods picked off clean from the first plantings, we can prolong the picking season for some weeks, especially if a good share of the old tops are broken or trimmed out. Green beans may also be grown after early cabbages.

### Odds and Ends.

The new California gem, kunrit, is on show in a Bond street jewelry store, London, and is attracting much attention, particularly on account of its quality of fluorescence.

The Princess Therese, of Bavaria, daughter of the Prince Regent, uses the name of Theodore von Bayer as a pseudonym. She is a Ph. D., honors causa, and has written several books, the best known of which are three volumes of travels, containing the results of her original investigations.